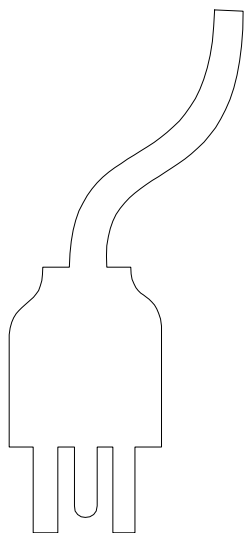
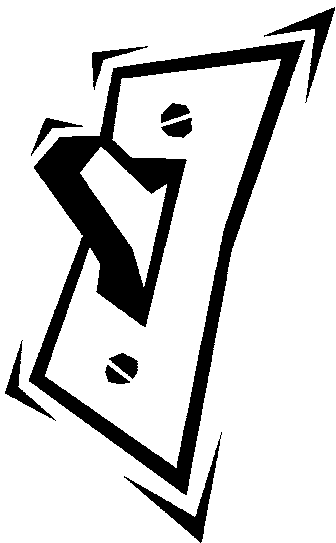




## Appliance Safety



Did you know that 80% of all fire deaths occur in the home? Most of these fires could easily have been prevented. Deaths due to fires caused by unsafe appliances are particularly avoidable. Following the simple tips below can boost survival rates dramatically. For example, having a working smoke detector more than doubles your chances of surviving a fire. Please share the following fire tips, because knowledge is the best fire protection.

- Regularly inspect your extension cords for fraying and never use an extension cord as permanent wiring.
- Instead of simple extension cords, get a UL-approved unit with built-in circuit breakers.
- Routinely check your wiring. Look for outlets that don't work, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.
- Never overload outlets or extension cords.
- Immediately repair appliances or lamps that sputter or spark.
- Keep appliances away from wet areas in the kitchen, bathroom, basement and garage.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, never force it into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Don't let children play near electric space heaters. Keep clothes, curtains and other combustible items at least three feet away from heaters.
- In case of a fire stay low to the ground, beneath the smoke, and have an escape plan already worked out.
- Install a smoke detector on every level of your home. Check the batteries every month and change them at least yearly.

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